



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR, MAGAĤAGA

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT GOVERNOR, SIGUNDO MAGAĤAĤI

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT

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LINDA UNPINGCO DENORCEY, MPH
ACTING DIRECTOR

LAURENT SF DUENAS, MPH, BSN, RN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Ongoing Measles Outbreak in the U.S. and the Philippines

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) continues to monitor the ongoing **measles** outbreaks in the U.S. and in the region. In addition to the ongoing measles outbreak in Washington State, the DPHSS received a notification regarding an ongoing outbreak of measles in the Philippines. As of February 11, 2019, the Epidemiology Bureau of the Department of Health in the Philippines reported that there were 4,302 cases of measles with 70 deaths from January 1 to February 9, 2019. Most cases are found in Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Western Visayas, and Northern Mindanao. Approximately one in four measles cases have occurred in babies under 9 months of age.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease. It is primarily spread by person to person contact via large respiratory droplets. Symptoms are characterized by a generalized rash lasting 3 days or longer, with fever (101°F or higher) and cough, or coryza (runny nose), or conjunctivitis (red eyes).

For Travelers

The DPHSS recommends that persons traveling to any destination ensure they are vaccinated for measles (given in combination with the mumps and rubella vaccines) **at least 4-6 weeks before departing**. Due to frequent travel of residents between Guam and the U.S. or the Philippines, it is possible that the disease may be brought here. The DPHSS encourages individuals to review their shot record to ensure they are up-to-date on all routine vaccinations before traveling to any destination. Ask your doctor if anyone in your family needs vaccines. To learn more about what vaccines are needed for each country, please visit, <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/>

Prevent the spread of measles in our community

A key part of protecting our island is to achieve high Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) immunization rates. The MMR vaccine is the best way to prevent measles. The more people who are vaccinated, the fewer opportunities a disease has to spread.

MMR Vaccine Recommendations from U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	
Children	All children should receive two doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First dose given at 12-15 months of age, and• Second dose at 4-6 years of age or at least 28 days after dose #1.
Students at post-high	Students without evidence of measles immunity need two doses,

school educational institutions	with dose #2 given no earlier than 28 days after the first dose.
Adults	All persons born during or after 1957 should have documentation of at least one dose given on or after the first birthday.
International Travelers	<p>People should be protected before traveling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants 6 - 11 months of age should receive one dose. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Children in the U.S. routinely receive MMR vaccination at 12-15 months of age. ◦ Infants vaccinated before 12 months of age should be revaccinated on or after the first birthday with 2 doses, separated by at least 28 days. • Children 12 months of age or older should have 2 doses, separated by at least 28 days. • Adults born during or after 1957 without evidence of immunity against measles should have documentation of two doses, with dose #2 given no earlier than 28 days after the first dose.

All health care providers on Guam are urged to be on alert for possible cases of measles and to promptly report suspect cases to the Immunization Program, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, at 735-7143/7148 or 735-7135. Furthermore, all health care providers are advised to review and update the immunization status of all patients they see. If vaccination is contraindicated because of illness, a follow-up appointment should be scheduled to update vaccination as soon as the illness is over.

For more information, please call the DPHSS Immunization Program at 735-7143.


LINDA UNPINGCO DENORCEY, MPH
Acting Director